left there is another, evidently imperfect and apparently partly superimposed upon the remains of a third one belonging to the opposite (under) side of the specimen. If a fourth one was present it is not now apparent.

NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN.

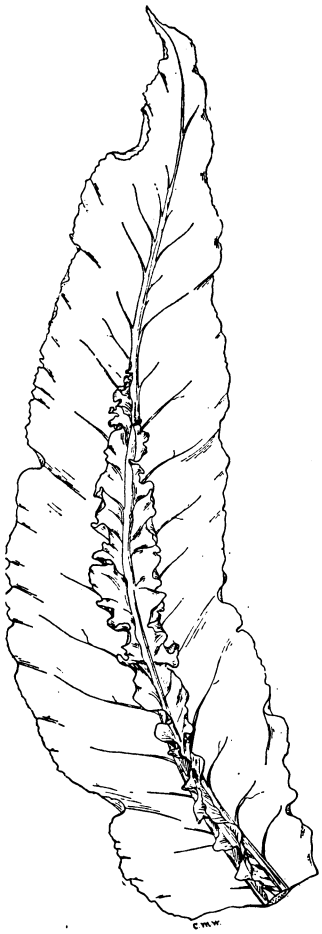

FIG. 3. Abnormal leaf of *Rumex hymenosepalus*, about ⅓ natural size.

AN ABNORMAL LEAF IN RUMEX

BY S. B. PARISH.

The accompanying figure represents an abnormal leaf of *Rumex hymenosepalus*, having two blades. The superior blade stands more vertically erect than the lower, it is shorter and more crisped, but in other respects the two are alike. Along the midrib the bases of the blades are separated by an interval of about three millimeters. Two adjacent plants were seen, each having fully half of its leaves affected in this manner, but not all to so great an extent as the one figured. On some the secondary blade was present but as a fragment, of greater or less size, or two or three separated fragments. These might occur at any point along the midrib, from its base nearly to its apex, but always of the form and size which the blade would there have presented, had it been continuous. And in every case, even when most fragmentary, the secondary blades were produced on both sides of the midrib.

It is possible to regard this teratological condition as an instance of foliar peloria. But to this view there are two objections.

The abnormal blades, or fragments of blades, appeared to have originated at the earliest stage of leaf-formation, rather than to have been outgrowths at a later period. Furthermore, a decided disarrangement of the fibrovascular bundles of the midrib suggests a different explanation. Such a condition might result from the cohesion, or rather fusion, of the midribs of two leaves, one superimposed upon the other, the blade of the uppermost being either reduced or fragmentary. But to whatever cause this malformation was due, it is probably one of infrequent occurrence, since none of a like nature is recorded by Masters.

SAN BERNARDINO, CALIFORNIA.

SHORTER NOTES

A NEW MIKANIA FROM CUBA. — **Mikania alba** sp. nov. Glabrous, except the involucral bracts. Primary branches round, striate, secondary ones hexagonal, canaliculate: petioles 4–6 mm. long, slightly winged; leaf-blades coriaceous, lanceolate-ovate, obtuse at the apex, rounded or obscurely cordate at the base, 4–5.5 cm. long, 1.6–1.8 cm. broad, diminishing in the inflorescence to linear or subulate bracts, three-nerved, the nerves deeply impressed in the reticulate-rugose upper side, prominent on the lower, the margin conspicuously revolute: inflorescence bracted, paniculate, ultimately composed of opposite, widely divaricate racemes, with a terminal one; racemes with 8–24 heads; heads opposite below, alternate above, pedicelled, subtended by a subulate bractlet much exceeding the pedicel; involucral bracts oblong-lanceolate, obtuse, 5–6 mm. long, brownish at the center, becoming transparent towards the ciliate margin, as long as or slightly shorter than the corolla; pappus white, equalling the corolla or nearly so, armed with minute spinules; corolla white, tubular-campanulate, scarcely longer than the involucral bracts, with oblong-lanceolate, acute lobes, thrice shorter than the tube, or less; stamens as long as the corolla, rarely exserted, with cylindric anthers; style-branches widely divaricate, subsequently recurved-coiling, finely tuberculate: achenes glabrous.

Collected in the Sierra Maestra, at an elevation of 3,400 feet, on Jiquarito Mountain, Sevilla Estate, province of Santiago, Cuba, by the writer on September 18, 1906; *no. 516* (type), in herb. New York Botanical Garden.